



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 097120,383      | 07/22/98    | WATANABE F           | 67242/107           |

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| EXAMINER |
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| BARTS, S |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
| 1621     |              |

DATE MAILED: 02/22/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.


Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Art Unit: 1621

*Interference*

1. All claims are allowable. However, due to a potential interference, *ex parte* prosecution is SUSPENDED from the date of this letter. Upon expiration of the period of suspension, applicant should make an inquiry as to the status of the application.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Samuel Barts whose telephone number is (703)308-4630. The Examiner's normal tour of duty is between 6:30-3:00, M-F. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235. Communications may now be transmitted via FAX directly to group 1600. The official group 1200 FAX machine number is (703) 308-4556.

  
SAMUEL BARTS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1600

S.B.  
February 21, 2001  
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